

Compendium Methodology

The *Compendium of State HIV Testing Laws* at www.nccc.ucsf.edu began as a medical student research project of the National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center (NCCC) of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) at San Francisco General Hospital. It was initially posted online in 2005 after collating state HIV testing laws and administrative codes accessed by LexisNexis®. For the following three years, the *Compendium* underwent intensive periodic revision by research interns, who searched for relevant state HIV testing laws in LexisNexis® and incorporated them into the original framework of individual state profiles with summary tables. The interns solicited feedback from UCSF faculty members, government officials, state HIV/AIDS program directors, state public health counsels, and policy experts. In 2008, the *Compendium* became a full-time project maintained year-around with systematic, regular updates (posted on average every two months) by a full-time analyst.

The *Compendium* includes all laws and administrative code available online pertaining to HIV testing. The original searches in LexisNexis® used filters for "HIV" and proxies for its variants (e.g., "immunodeficiency" for human immunodeficiency virus and "HTLV" for HTLV-III). Laws specific to HIV testing were then selected for inclusion in the *Compendium*. Other HIV laws (e.g., polices pertaining to HIV discrimination, appropriations, and provisions for HIV treatment drugs or clinics) were excluded. Updates and revisions are initiated by: legislative changes followed through online state legislative websites; feedback from users, policymakers, and others interested in state HIV testing laws; policy briefs; and other released documents. When state legislatures are in session, state legislative websites are searched regularly for bills containing "HIV." Those regarding relevant HIV testing laws are tracked and posted on the website under "Pending Legislation." Only enacted legislation relevant to HIV testing is integrated into existing state profiles. Ambiguous laws, especially those relating to the CDC recommendations for routine HIV testing, are discussed internally and with external experts in specific states and at CDC. Accuracy and validity of the *Compendium* are products of this review process and feedback. In 2009-10, the analyst updated the *Compendium* 11 times with updates to 35 states (with 69% of states updated during this period). Eleven states on average were revised per update. States were updated a maximum of 6 times.